

## **I-5 Seattle Construction Projects Update**

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**Edition 3, February 28 2005**

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### **I-5 James to Olive Closure Weekends Announced**

It's time for a makeover, freeway style. This spring crews working for WSDOT will replace cracked and broken pavement on a one-mile stretch of southbound I-5 between James and Olive Streets and near Dearborn in Seattle. This is the first major rehabilitation work in 40 years on this stretch of I-5.

To complete this construction, crews working for WSDOT must close southbound I-5 lanes and ramps through downtown Seattle for as many as four weekends and on some weeknights this spring. During two weekends crews will likely reduce southbound mainline I-5 to one lane. Closures will vary as crews work on different ramps and parts of the freeway. We are making every effort to keep closures to a minimum while still completing our work.

I-5 southbound construction closures are planned for the following weekends:

- April 1 - 4
- April 15 - 18
- April 22 - 25
- April 29 - May 2

If inclement weather is forecast and we feel the weather would significantly affect the work, the work will be postponed. As a result, we designated alternate weekends for construction:

- May 13 - 16
- May 20 - 23

Lanes and ramps will be closed at night during the weekdays prior to these closures so crews can prepare for weekend work.

On weekends, construction crews will close lanes and ramps starting at 10:00 p.m. Friday and reopen them by 5:00 a.m. Monday (one of the weekend closures may require an earlier closing time). Weeknight construction work will allow crews to prepare the lanes for weekend work, thus minimizing the need for additional disruptive weekend closures. On weeknights crews will close lanes from 8:00 p.m. and reopen them by 5:00 a.m.

We are working with our contractor, Gary Merlino Construction Company of Seattle, to determine exactly when and where the construction will occur. Future e-mail alerts will include this more detailed, up-to-date closure information.

## **Keeping Traffic Moving During I-5 James to Olive Construction**

As always, downtown Seattle will remain open for business while southbound I-5 is under construction. However, given the type of work we must complete and the freeway and ramp closures required, traffic congestion is unavoidable.

To help keep traffic moving, WSDOT will:

- Work with our contractor to find ways to finish the construction work as quickly as possible and to minimize noise, traffic and other disruptions while work is underway. In addition, our construction contract includes financial incentives for our contractor to eliminate a weekend closure. It also includes penalties if the contractor doesn't reopen lanes on time.
- Open the I-5 express lanes southbound throughout the weekend closures.
- Operate the southbound mainline HOV lane as a temporary general-purpose lane.
- Set up detours for closed ramps.
- Hire Washington State Patrol officers for traffic control.
- Coordinate with transit agencies and the city of Seattle.
- Conduct extensive media outreach.
- Encourage people to carpool, vanpool, and bicycle, ride the bus, adjust their schedules and take other actions to alleviate traffic.
- Provide driver information on variable message signs, highway advisory radio, Web site, e-mail alerts, and via our toll-free 5-1-1 travelers information phone line.
- Increase staffing for the Puget Sound Traffic Systems Management Center.
- Conduct daily debriefings to assess and refine traffic control measures.

## **I-5 James to Olive Makeover Contract Awarded**

WSDOT awarded the construction contract for the I-5 James to Olive Pavement Rehabilitation Project to the most competitive bidder, Gary Merlino Construction Company of Seattle, for \$3,947,724.55.

We are now working with Gary Merlino Construction Company staff to develop a detailed construction plan and schedule.

## **Roanoke Noise Walls Fabrication Underway**

The concrete panels for the Roanoke noise walls are being fabricated offsite. The project team installed temporary construction fencing and has now begun clearing and other prep work along Harvard Avenue. WSOT is reviewing a sample wall panel. Once the panel has been approved, full production will begin. The Harvard Avenue walls and their foundations are scheduled to be built later this month and should be completed by May.

Be sure to visit the project page for the noise walls to view photos of the designs and exact locations of the walls:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/I5RoanokeNoisewall/>.

## **About this E-mail**

Please forward this e-mail to others who might be interested in these I-5 Seattle e-mail updates. To join our e-mail update list just send a quick e-mail to [i5Seattle@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:i5Seattle@wsdot.wa.gov) with "subscribe" in the subject line.

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